

THE HEADLIGHT.

—BY THE—
SOUTHWESTERN PUBLISHING CO.

EDMUND C. ROSS, Editor.
SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1892.

Eighteen firemen and other persons, were killed at a fire in Indianapolis on Monday evening.

The Optic publishes a detailed account of recent valuable mineral discoveries in the vicinity of Las Vegas.

An incipient fire in El Paso Thursday, in the rear of Mowson & Thorne's hardware establishment. Little damage done.

They had a good rain up in central New Mexico this week, the rain falling for some hours at the rate of half an inch an hour.

A young man and woman became lost on the road near Roanoke, West Virginia, on Sunday last, and were frozen to death.

The Presbytery of New Mexico is in session at Socorro. Delegates are in attendance from all the cities of New Mexico and Arizona.

The New Mexican of the 21st announces that Mr. Jacob Weimer has been appointed postmaster at Santa Fe, vice A. Seligman, commission expired.

The Blair inquiry, miscalled an Educational Bill, was defeated in the Senate by a vote of 31 to 37, Thursday. Blair immediately entered a motion to reconsider.

A great fire is raging in the Germania mine in Wisconsin, and five miners have perished. All efforts to stay the flames are unsuccessful. The loss will reach \$100,000.

A cold wave visited Charleston, Sunday morning, and the mercury fell in twelve hours from 70 to 24 degrees. Everything was frozen and immense loss will result to fruit and truck growers.

Another elected Democrat was ousted from his seat in the House on Thursday, to add another Republican vote for the maintenance of Reed's rulings and the Federal election gag law.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs on Thursday agreed to report to the House a plan for the establishment of reciprocity between the United States and Canada. The same for Mexico will logically come next.

The Tombstone Prospector says "a movement is on foot to prevail on the Louisiana Company to move their headquarters to Arizona," and adds that "there is no argument of any force which can be brought against the plan." The Prospector cannot be very anxious for admission just now.

The town of Las Vegas had a very serious loss, Saturday night last, in the burning of its Methodist Seminary. This building was one of the landmarks of Las Vegas. It was erected in 1883 at a cost of some \$50,000 and subsequent improvements amounted to about as much more—insurance \$4,000 on the two buildings. There were 153 pupils in attendance. The Optic says it will be rebuilt at once.

In Ohio there are five congressmen to represent 300,000 Democrats; 16 congressmen to represent 410,000 Republicans; so that 79 Ohio Democrats count in the State average for Congress only as much as 26 Republicans. Yet a howl of rage is going up from every Republican paper in this country because the Democratic Legislature of Ohio proposes to make an apportionment whereby a given number of Democratic votes shall have the same force in the election of Congressmen as the same number of Republican votes.

The Cherokee Strip Boomers made a break into that section a few days ago, drove out the cattle, burned the grass, and proceeded to make off the country into claims. They were at once ordered out and troops sent to expel them, and they suddenly became quite as anxious to get out as they had been to get in. A tract of Indian land has a strange fascination for the average western boomer. There are millions of acres of just as good land in New Mexico as there are in that strip—but there is no adverse Indian title—consequently no remuneration or adventure in it for the boomer.

PROTECTIVE TARIFF A LOCAL QUESTION.

The truth of the remark of Gen. Hancock, the Democratic candidate for President in 1880, though ridiculed by Republicans at the time—that the tariff was largely a local question—is proven by the diversity of opinion on that question among Republicans now.

In New England, the seat of the wool manufacturing interest, they want free wool, while in the west, the wool producing region, they want a tariff on wool.

In Pennsylvania, the seat of the iron manufacturing industry, they want free iron, while in the iron ore producing regions they want a tariff on iron.

The New England shoe and leather manufacturers want free hides so that they may continue to compete successfully with the foreign shoemaker, but the western cattleman wants protection on hides, and insists that his business is being ruined without it.

In Kansas they are equally divided—the lead manufacturers want free lead ore, while the lead ore producers want protection in the shape of a tariff tax on lead ore importations from Mexico. Mexico is capable of a vast output of lead ore, and would like an outlet into the United States for them, and in exchange would take Kansas corn, but not being permitted it has quarantined Kansas corn as we have quarantined her lead, and the result is that a great volume of profitable trade is cut off from both.

The following from the Kansas City, Kansas, Gazette, a Republican paper, is to the point, and an illustration of the growing feeling of bitterness there on this question:

"The facts coming to light through this lead ore fight confirm the stories of the opposition that the tariff makes the rich richer without any corresponding benefit to the poor man. We might just as well shut down to business and talk plain flow much longer on we face the facts of the stone crowd at Galena clamoring for protection, who have their hundreds of thousands on a mere pittance of an investment in lead ore, while their laborers are no better off than they were nine years ago, meanwhile there is an immense fifteen cent corn constituency."

The only cure for this is in a return to the Democratic doctrine, under which the country and all its industries was always prosperous when it prevailed—a tariff for revenue only—leaving every industry free from governmental interference, to make its way according to its merits—no invidious distinctions for or against any—no forcing of fictitious prosperity to any, or meddling with and harmful discriminations, without which it is impossible to frame a tariff for protection.

The broad Democratic ground is the only safe one to take. That makes it a National issue. Tariff for protection is essentially, in its nature, a local issue, and must ever be so, and a disturbing and fruitless one. The sooner it is eliminated from American politics by a return to the Democratic tariff doctrine, the sooner will the business of the country be put upon a permanent basis of enduring prosperity.

SETTLE THE LAND TITLES.

It is exceedingly gratifying to see the recent manifestations of active interest in the procurement of legislation for the settlement of New Mexico land titles, instead of persistently urging a condition of statehood that would be a large degree barren of good results to any of the interests of the community without provision for the settlement of these titles.

It is the duty of every citizen of New Mexico to assist by every means at his command, in the attainment of this end. A delegation of our people spent some months in Washington two years ago, on this business, and secured, with Mr. Joseph's assistance, the passage of a good bill by the House, but it was blocked in the Senate by the chairman of the Senate committee on Private Land Claims. We hope the measure will fare better this time, though there is not very much ground for hope so long as Senator Edmunds remains chairman of the Senate committee. That, however, should not deter active and persistent effort.

With any reasonable and effective provision for such settlement, we may confidently expect a large and speedy increase of immigration, capital, and American intelligence and energy, and schools.

It would accomplish a hundred times more than statehood could without it. Statehood will then come—naturally, easily, and healthfully. A settlement of our land titles is New Mexico's greatest present need.

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT.

In admitting the two senators from Montana the Senate has established a very dangerous precedent. Neither the Republican or the Democratic applicants had complete credentials or proofs of election. The Democratic applicants had the certificate of the Governor, based only on the action of the Democrats of the Legislature—the Republicans had the certificate of the Secretary based only on the action of the Republican branch of the Legislature.

While the Democratic claimants of senatorial seats had the most nearly perfect credentials, if there was any difference between them. There was, in fact, no regular, lawful election of Senators by any authority in that state, and the Senate had, therefore, no Constitutional authority to admit either set of applicants, as neither had perfect credentials—no Constitutional authority to decide that either was elected.

There is a way provided by law for remedying this dereliction on the part of the Legislature—that is, by appointment by the Governor of the state upon the adjournment of the Legislature. That was the only possible lawful solution of the entanglement. The Senate had no more Constitutional right to declare either set lawfully elected, than it had to make an original selection of senators for that state. In fact, its action in seating the Republican applicants was in effect, and to all intents and purposes, an original election by the Senate of Senators for that state. The Senate might just as well, and with the same degree of legality, have gone into a formal ballot for the election of Senators for that state. It is therefore entirely logical that the action taken, and the precedent thus established, may yet result, in cases involving great partisan emergencies, in the Senate taking into its own hands, upon any convenient pretext, practically the election, by that body, of Senators for the several states.

That is the logical end of the action of the Senate in the Montana case, and such a result would be in entire keeping with the new doctrine of that party so often cropping out of later years, that its interpretations of Constitutional power are governed by partisan needs—in a word, that might makes right.

No more threatening innovation of Constitutional right and Democratic forms of government ever confronted the American people. Prince Bismarck has resigned the chancellorship of Germany, after an incumbency of some thirty years, during the most of which he has been practically Emperor of Germany, and the most conspicuous figure in European politics. The young Emperor seemed inclined to "run things" himself, and Bismarck was not used to that.

ABANDON STATEHOOD.

The Kingston Shaft tenders some excellent advice to all concerned, when it suggests the abandonment for the present of the statehood movement and direct all possible energy for the procurement of legislation for the settlement of the land grant titles.

The Shaft suggests that a vigorous movement be inaugurated before Congress to pass upon the land grants in this territory and have them either confirmed or thrown open to settlement as government lands. Have our school lands set apart as well as lands for other purposes—in short have Congress do for us under federal supervision all that is claimed could be done if we were a state; and let us while waiting for statehood derive some of its benefits.

It is believed by many that Congress would not favorably and justly upon a measure of this kind. It would be statehood on probation. It makes but little difference to the people of New Mexico who spends the money for improvements in the territory so that it is done; and many prefer federal to state supervision. Undoubtedly our greatest drawback is the unsettled condition of our land titles. These should be cleared up and become subject to taxation the same as any other property.

This is a frightful wrong upon the personal property holders of New Mexico; and a silent and unparalleled outrage upon the people of that portion of the territory which has been opened up and settled under the pre-emption and homestead laws of the United States, and who are compelled to pay taxes on their little farms and ranches, while entire grants of land, baronial in dimensions, pay not a scintilla towards defraying the expenses of our territorial government.

THE ADMISSION OUTLOOK.

A Washington dispatch of the 17th states that after hearing an argument before the House Committee, by Delegate Joseph, in behalf of his bill for the admission of New Mexico, the committee had a discussion on the subject of the admission of new states, and the following resolution was adopted by a party vote:

Resolved, That the committee on Territories approve the presentation of the bill for the admission of Wyoming, and the report as presented by Mr. Baker, for immediate consideration by the House, pursuant to clause 51, rule 11, as in strict accordance with the prior instructions of the committee. It is the desire of the committee that consideration of said bill be continued without delay until final action thereon; that the same course be taken as to the Idaho bill as soon as the Wyoming bill shall be considered; the further consideration of the Wyoming bill not to be moved until March 25th. The committee further desire that so soon as the Idaho bill is disposed of, the House shall then take up any other bills for the admission of states previously reported by the committee on Territories, and will endeavor to have consideration thereof continued with as little interruption as practicable by other business of the House, and that the committee will proceed to consider the bills for enabling acts for Arizona and New Mexico, and that both shall be reported favorably or adversely at an early day.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

Judge Botkin recently made a decision in Seward county, Kansas, establishing the validity of a mortgage made by a homestead entryman before final receipt being issued by the Government.

The value of this decision, if it shall be sustained by the higher courts, will be in permitting the homestead and entryman on public lands, otherwise without the means to do so, to procure the means to improve and develop his lands. It will prove a questionable good to the entryman, in some cases, but in the main it will result in general good, as it will have the effect of stimulating general development.

SHAKING.

The Kingston Shaft remarks sarcastically "that a dirty cotton handkerchief is as hard to wash as the reputation of a defunct New Mexico legislator."

Also that "prohibition knocked the brutal Republican majority in Iowa into the river of Lethe. The late election returns illustrate the fact that it is suicide for any political party to infringe upon the personal liberty of the American voter, whether native or adopted."

COUNTING A QUORUM.

The Congressional Record is not altogether devoid of interest in these days. Occasionally the proceedings are officially recorded in its pages, matter for reflection. For instance, in the Senate debate of Thursday it is recorded that in the Chandler shaft dispute vote was ordered, the result being yeas 27, nays 11. The president pro tempore announced that the state of the vote disclosed the want of a quorum. He did not attempt to count a quorum, and the Senate adjourned.

A few pages further on there is a report of a suggestive incident in the House on the same day. A division was demanded on the passage of a public building bill and there were yeas 111, nays 4. Mr. Breckinridge of Kentucky, made the point of no quorum present and the further point that a quorum ought to be present at the time business is being transacted, and that persons who have come in should not be counted as they were not present at the time. Speaker Reed said: "One hundred and sixty-five members are present." Mr. Breckinridge said: "That does not make a quorum." Speaker Reed saw the point and said: "One hundred and sixty-six are present."

THE CASE WOULD BE DIFFERENT.

The last legislative assembly of this Territory appropriated the sum of three hundred dollars for stationery, meals and extraordinary expenses of the Third judicial district court. This first appropriation upon this fund was in favor of John A. Moses for meals furnished jurors during the recent term of the court in this county. Mr. Moses presented the warrant for payment, and was politely informed that there was no money to pay it. Would a similar answer be given to a favored speculator in Territorial warrants?

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